

Mother of Child Exploitation Victim Leans on **LAW ENFORCEMENT** During Crisis

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In 2007, Timothy Scott Richerson, a former youth minister from Madison County, developed an online relationship with Freida Curry's teenage daughter. The then-39-year-old Richerson eventually met Curry's daughter in person and sexually exploited her.

After a thorough investigation by the Richmond Police Department and Kentucky State Police, the Eastern District U.S. Attorney's Office charged Richerson with online enticement of a minor. He pleaded guilty in 2008 and later that year was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Curry has spoken to law enforcement throughout Kentucky about her experience. In 2009, she was the keynote speaker at a statewide law enforcement conference in Nebraska. Later that year, she was a candidate to share her experience on the "Oprah Winfrey Show."

In a recent interview with the U.S. Attorney's Office, Curry recalled how the Richmond Police Department, KSP and the U.S. Attorney's Office helped her through the difficult experience and inspired her to create more awareness about child exploitation.

What was your prior knowledge of the sexual exploitation of children problem?

I had heard of it, but thought it only happened in big cities like San Francisco. Little did I know that I was watching the show "To Catch a Predator" and down the hall my daughter was talking to a predator on the computer.

Describe your emotions when you discovered your daughter had been exploited.

I sensed something was wrong with my daughter and was praying to find something on her computer. I knew nothing about computers or how to find saved files. I sat down and asked the Lord to let me be able to find any files. I briefly searched and the conversations with this man popped up. When I read that this person had sexual contact with my child, I became frantic and vulnerable. Your heart breaks when you realize this person has taken advantage of your child.

What was your initial conversation like with law enforcement?

When I called the Richmond Police detective, I was irate. I was screaming and sobbing, literally sobbing, that this man had contact with my child, and I'm not able to do anything. Richmond detectives tried to calm me down and talk me through it. They really did a good job of step-by-step walking me through exactly what I needed to do.

What did you fear most about the adjudication process?

It was sort of a helpless feeling. You fear that this man may not be convicted. You wonder if law enforcement will take you seriously. You wonder if you have enough evidence for law enforcement to convict this guy. You fear he might be free to come after your daughter again. This man